



Sgt. Jack Morse

**A Soldier provides security near Balad, Iraq. Over the next four months, 220,000 Soldiers will move into and out of Iraq and Afghanistan – an operational tempo that is part of the reason why the service will temporarily expand by 30,000 troops.**

## Army to grow by 30,000

*Schoomaker cites need for temporary growth, but opposes permanent increase*

By Jim Garamone  
Army News Service

The Army has been given the green light to temporarily increase its size by up to 30,000 troops, but Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker said he opposes a permanent end-strength increase.

The service is already about 11,000 Soldiers above its congressional limit of 482,400 active-duty troops, Schoomaker told the House Armed Services Committee Jan. 28, explaining that the Army has used emergency authority to meet its commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans and elsewhere.

Speaking at a congressional hearing on the rotation of troops to Iraq, Schoomaker said he has permission from Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld “to grow the Army by 30,000 people.”

But Schoomaker told representatives he opposes a permanent increase in troops, and instead believes transformation and restructuring will increase lethality and efficiency in the long run. He said an unfunded end-strength increase “puts readiness at risk, it puts training at risk, it puts modernization at risk, it puts transformation at risk – and that’s why I’m resisting it.”

Many in Congress believe the Army is stressed with worldwide operations. One proposal calls for adding two more combat divisions. Another calls for a 40,000-troop increase in the Army, while other, more general proposals just call for end-strength increases.

“We’re making very serious moves to modularize [and] standardize the Army, developing an Army that’s more lethal, more agile, more capable of meeting the current and future operating environment task,” he said.

If the Army is allowed to pursue the course now charted, Schoomaker said, the country will get “a better Army more capable of doing what it needs to do, within our current level of resourcing.”

Schoomaker detailed some restructuring elements for the representatives. He said there are currently 10

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Gen. Peter Schoomaker  
U.S. Army Chief of Staff

active duty divisions. The service will retain the 10 division headquarters as battle command headquarters but move some enabling resources – such as air defense, signal and intelligence – to the brigade level.

The Army would increase the number of brigades under those divisions.

“Tentatively we think we can go from three brigades under a division to four,” he said. That alone would take the service from 30 brigades under the division structure to 40.

The service has already decided to go forward with five Stryker brigades in the active structure. The service also has two airborne brigades and an armored cavalry regiment.

“That moves us from 33 active brigades under 10 division headquarters to a force of 48 active brigades – more lethal, more capable, more agile, more modular – that will allow us to be much more strategically agile than we are today,” he said.

“This is the biggest internal restructuring we’ve done in 50 years, but it must be done to make us relevant and to allow us to meet the real threat to the United States,” Schoomaker said.

## DoD to rebalance Reserve, Guard forces

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department has several initiatives underway to rebalance Guard and Reserve forces, the department’s top reserve affairs official said.

Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, told attendees of the Reserve Officers Association’s mid-winter conference that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is interested in transforming the Guard and Reserve “not tomorrow, but today,” and that the fiscal 2005 defense budget will have significant rebalancing initiatives.

Hall, a retired Navy rear admiral, said the department is studying ways to improve Guard and Reserve end strength, reduce multiple mobilizations of the same units and relieve stress on the force.

Hall said DoD is moving toward increasing the base number of Guard and Reserve troops and is moving some of its missions and functions to active-duty forces.

The department has looked at about 300,000 military manpower positions for possible outsourcing to contractors, he said.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, Hall said, about 352,000 Guardsmen and Reservists have been mobilized.

But, he added, “We’ve got 62 percent of the Guard and Reserve that we haven’t touched.”

Hall said a review of mobilizations by Guard and Reserve troops over the past six years revealed that only 4 percent of the force has been affected by “multi-mobilizations.”

But, he added, the department is aware that is a small consolation for those reserve component members who have been deploying.

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“In that 4 percent, if you are one of that group that has been mobilized, two, three and four times, it’s a problem,” Hall said. “So we have looked at the stress on the force. We have defined it, and the message here is that it’s a small group, but it’s an important group.”

Hall noted that those Guard and Reserve members called most for mobilization belong to units that specialize in mortuary, civil affairs, force protection and air traffic control.

In those groups, he said, there is a need to “rebalance so that we do not mobilize those people over and over again. And we’re committed to that, and that’s going to be part of the rebalancing.”

Hall said DoD also is looking into providing more predictability for Guard and Reserve members prior to deployment.

He said Guard and Reserve members “need to know up front” when they’re going to mobilize and for how long.

“We need to get to a predictability, a rotational base for both our active and reserve forces that provides that,” he said.

## Permanent change of station/pre-separation briefing

**Feb. 18, 1 p.m. – Patch Barracks, building 2318, room 4**

**Gather information from agencies including transportation, medical and dental clinics, customs, housing and vehicle registration.**

All service members and civilians departing within the next four to five months should attend. **Registration is required.** For more information call 430-4064/civ. 0711-680-4064.